

MINUTES
City Neighborhood Council
Monday, September 24, 2001
6:30 p.m.

Voting Members: Adrienne Bailey (Central); Ron Burke (Southwest); Ann Donovan (East); Joan Jevnikar (Southeast); Stephen Lundgren (Ballard); Chris Leman (Lake Union)

Absent: Russ Brubaker (Delridge); Kate Joncas/Renee Tanner (Downtown); Charlie Cunniff (Greater Duwamish); Mike Warren (Magnolia/Queen Anne); Jeannie Hale (Northeast); Irene Wall (Northwest); Mike Thompson (North)

Other District Council members: Deborah Witmer (Southeast; CNC Secretary); Janis Maloney (East)

City Staff: Brent Crook (DON); Joan Walters (CBO)

Other Guests: Janet Robinson (Neighborhood Matching Fund Committee)

A complete tape recording of this meeting is available to listen to — call Sandy Brooks at 684-0719.

Vice President Adrienne Bailey began the meeting at 6:32 pm - a quorum was not present.

1. Introductions, Announcements, and Review and Approve Minutes.

Review and approval of minutes from the July CNC meeting was not done due to not having a quorum present.

2. CNC Neighborhood Matching Fund Report

Minutes of July and September Neighborhood Matching Fund (NMF) Committee were distributed, which included a list of nominees for the current Citywide Review Team (CRT). The CRT is still looking for some new At-Large Representatives. Brent reports that Duwamish will be represented by Bill Mallow if no other representative is found. Adrienne observed that this list seems to include better representation than in previous years (diversity in ethnicity and wide representation geographically.) Stephen observed that it was good to see people not also already involved in other areas - he encourages looking for “new” people for all CNC/DC positions.

Adrienne reports that her District is working on ways to bring young people into the civic process and other districts may be able to use their model.

District Councils are being asked to get their NMF ratings to the Department of Neighborhoods by Nov. 1.

3. CNC Budget Committee Report and Guest Speaker: Joan Walters

Joan distributed copies of the Mayor’s Proposed 2002 Budget. Joan went through the proposed budget, reminding us of events which have affected the financial picture including the

earthquake, the energy situation (cost increases). Also, there are some assumptions made and not made (see Budget Proposal.) \$16.5m is part of Fire Dept. budget that comes from the EMS (County tax) and this budget does assume passage of Emergency Medical Services Levy.

Another budget assumption is a property tax increase of 6%. B&O and Sales taxes are entirely tied to spending in the general economy. We have seen dramatic drops in both sources of revenue, more so than was anticipated. The rise in Utility Taxes has only slightly made up for other revenue shortfalls.

It should be noted that these revenue forecasts were finalized before September 11, and the shortfalls that are anticipated from those attacks have not yet been factored in.

New spending programs accounted for within this budget include two new health initiatives, funded out of refund moneys from Public Health from an agreement with them, repaying money from past years when it was determined we paid for basic services - when those are supposed to be funded from County funds.

This budget also allows for a 100% staffing rate for safety services (police and fire). The question was raised as to our ability to fund emergency situations; Joan responded that she believes we do have that ability and she stated the Rainy Day Fund and other contingency funds have not been touched in this budget. Another question: in the past few years we have seen unprecedented growth in economy - where did that additional revenue go? Joan responded that it went into enhanced services such as expansion in NMF, social services, library staffing, etc. We have continued these levels in this budget but Joan anticipates it may have to be reviewed for the 2003-4 budget.

Some concern was expressed about SeaTran budget allocations – that it is not funding neighborhood priorities adequately. Who oversees their priority-setting? It was also suggested that Gil Kerlikowski (the Seattle Police Chief) be asked to come to a CNC meeting to answer concerns about his department allocations and priorities.

Concern was raised about the way that the City's budget priorities, in general, are set. It was suggested that the CNC should address this issue.

A question was raised about disaster planning - is there a plan in place for disasters other than earthquakes? Joan responded that there is an Office of Disaster Management and they would know more about that. There is a budget for emergencies.

Joan notes that Public Safety budget is 50% of the City's General Fund budget.

There is no extra money in the budget for housing over and above the current levy, which expires in 2003. Plans are underway to look at renewal of that levy - which may conflict with a monorail levy.

An issue was raised about city employees who are given city-owned vehicles to take home, primarily to allow for available vehicles in an emergency. How does this relate to the fact that employees are not required to live in city - will those vehicles be available to Seattle? This is a

hot issue during union negotiations and Joan suggests we invite Capt. Morris (Seattle Fire Chief) to a CNC meeting.

It was pointed out that the CNC Budget Committee has historically held a Budget Priorities Conference, the last of which was held in 2000 and was lightly attended, and we have not always had adequate information provided by City Departments. It will be especially important in these tough economic times, to both hold this next Budget Conference and get good information from City Departments.

The City does look at re-financing bonds, etc. when appropriate. Our City rating was recently increased to AAA which puts us in a better financing position.

CNC members have raised the question as to how NSF/CRF priorities were finally determined - several districts were concerned that their priorities were not taken into consideration. It was suggested that Anne Fiske Zuniga or Rebecca Herzfeld be asked to the CNC to discuss this issue. It was also suggested that a general city discussion should take place as to what constitutes "vital services". DC's also need to have these discussions within their groups. Although DC's were given the chance to prioritize projects, there is some question as to what happened when the decisions were made at the Department level. The process may need to be revised to address these concerns. There is also concern as to the statistics that SeaTran uses - and gives DC's and neighborhood groups - where do they come from and are they relevant to our neighborhoods?

[End of Joan's presentation.]

The next CNC Budget Committee meeting will be on October 8 at 5:30 pm in the Arctic Building Dome Room and the meeting will be videotaped. There are several invited guests, including current Council members and candidates.

A concern was raised that it is difficult to get people who can attend all these meetings and then be able to filter the information presented down to DC's and neighborhood groups. A suggestion was made that the Executive Committee of the CNC work with DC's to get some agreement as to meeting schedules with an eye to freeing up more days of the month which are open for other meetings. An idea was brought forward that all DC's all meet on the same night - freeing up the rest of the month for other meetings.

There was also concern expressed about educating citizens in general about City structure and ways to get involved in budget priorities, etc.

4. *Neighborhood Planning Committee Report*
No report was available.

5. *Old Business/New Business*

New Business: Nominating Committee

According to CNC By-Laws, a nominating committee is convened in October to oversee nominations and elections for CNC officers for the coming year. Stephen Lundgren volunteered; Chris Leman volunteered to be an alternate. CNC members not present will be contacted by the Secretary to recruit other committee members.

Old Business: CNC Website Update:

Deborah reported on the progress towards posting CNC information on the DON website. A new staff hire in July has one half of his time dedicated to updating the City Website. (It was noted that the other half of his time is dedicated to creating a database to track Neighborhood Plan Implementation – another CNC-supported priority.) As can be expected, there is quite a “line” of departments awaiting website update work. It is anticipated that the DON site will be scheduled for work in March, 2002. The CNC pages are just one part of that work.

In response to Stephen Lundgren’s requests for a more immediate web presence for the CNC, Sandy asked for an interim posting of very basic (non-changing) information. This request has been granted. Deborah and Sandy have been working on putting that basic information together. One part is contact information for CNC members and Committee Chairs. To that end, an Information Release Form was distributed for members to decide what (if any) contact information they agree to have posted. These forms need to be completed and returned to Deborah or Sandy before any information will be posted. Forms will be sent by mail to CNC members not present.

Stephen passed on thanks to Sandy for her support and work.

Other Business:

There was a suggestion that there be better coordination between the Neighborhood Planning Implementation Advisory Committee (NPIAC) and our NPC - it would be great to have reports from NPIAC at our CNC meeting.

One member raised concern about following bylaw requirements regarding CNC committee responsibilities, about meeting regularly, and bringing their member list to the CNC for approval. It was also pointed out that this is related to the overall need to bring in new blood into the committees as well.

Suggestion: perhaps information on City civic structure should be added to school social studies curriculum.

Suggestion to use available tools such as the newsletter that goes out in utility bills - and how about a Citizen Civic Involvement Handbook?

Ron made a Motion to Adjourn

Meeting adjourned 8:53pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deborah Witmer, CNC Secretary